Bridge between Aroor and Edakkochi.

119. *MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have considered the proposal to construct a bridge between Aroor and Edakkochi; and

(*b*) what steps, if any, they have taken in the matter?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As the Government of India, the Government of Travancore and the Government of Cochin could not agree as to the proportionate contribution towards the cost of construction of this bridge the proposal has been dropped.

Agreement with the South Indian Railway.

120. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state when the existing agreement with the South Indian Railway Company for running the Travancore Railway will terminate?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: The contract may be terminated at the earliest on 31st December 1945.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether Government will take over the administration of the Railway from the Company?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I rise to a point of order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The supplementary question is out of order.

Forest Divisions.

121. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to abolish one or more of the forest divisions in the State?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know how many Forest Divisions and Ranges are to be abolished?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR: The matter is under consideration.

Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum.

122. *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum, has been handed over by Government to any one for management; and

(*b*) if so, to whom and on what conditions?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) On lease to Messrs. Spencer & Co., Ltd., for a period of two years from 13-10-41 subject to determination on 6 months' previous notice by either party, the lessee paying to Government a rent equal to five per cent. of the annual turn-over of the Hotel and also paying all rates, taxes and other outgoings in respect of the premises during the period of the lease.

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